GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4239
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES ON RIVERS
MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Anek nadiyon par bandh banane ka kam Nepal ki sahmati par nirbhar: appearing in the Dainik Jagran dated December 29, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of projects sent to the Nepal Government for approval to deal with the flood havoc in Northern Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh caused by Kosi, Kamla and Bagmati rivers and various tributaries flowing from Nepal;

(c) whether the Government have held any discussions in the matter;

(d) if so, the response of the Nepal Government in this regard; and

(e) the concrete step being considered by the Government to redeem to situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has proposed a number of multipurpose projects namely Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, Sapta Koshi-Sun Koshi Multipurpose Project, Kamla and Bagmati Multipurpose Projects with the Government of Nepal.

(c) to (e) Issues regarding cooperation with Nepal in the Water Resources Sector are under discussion between Nepal and India. In this connection, a meeting of the India- Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by respective Water Resources Secretaries of the two countries was held in October, 2000. The issue relating to water resources projects on rivers Koshi, Kamla and Bagmati was inter-alia discussed in the meeting.

As a follow up, the third meeting of Joint Team of Experts (JTE) was held with Nepal in March, 2001 to discuss taking up of field surveys, investigations and to open Joint Project Office for preparation of Detailed Project Report of Sapta Koshi −Sun Koshi Multipurpose Project.

As regards Kamla and Bagmati Multipurpose Projects, the JCWR has advised the JTE on Sapta Koshi- Sun Koshi Multipurpose Project to look into the irrigation requirements in the command area Bagmati and Kamla both in Nepal and India. It was also agreed to exchange relevant data on the existing irrigation projects on Kamla for discussions.

With regard to, Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project the Joint Detailed Project Report is already under preparation by Indo-Nepal Joint Project Office-Pancheshwar Investigation, Kathmandu. For this purpose the 15th meeting of Joint Group of Experts of India and Nepal was held during December, 2000.